Name: Date: Period:

*Vocabulary*

avant-garde –

perpetrated –

putsch –

communist –

proletariat –

Bolsheviks –

Marx –

rheumatism –

martyr –

effigy –

euphoria –

nationalism –

revolutionaries –

chador –

coup d’état –

secular –

fatalism –

circumspect –

veritable –

bureaucrats –

*Questions*

**Introduction**

1. According to the introduction, what stereotypical image is Satrapi trying to dispel?

2. What are Satrapi’s two motives for writing *Persepolis*?

**“The Veil” Chapter One**

1. What does the veil seem to symbolize to Satrapi and other women?

2. Describe the symbolism and conflict represented in the picture on the top left of page 6.

3. Look at the picture at the bottom of page 9. What three attributes of God does Marji wish to embody as a prophet?

**“The Bicycle” Chapter Two**

1. What metaphor does the author use on page 11 to portray the Persian people during

2500 years of tyranny and submission?

2. Respond to the picture on page 15.

3. What is significant about the people Marjane pretends to be?

**“The Water Cell” Chapter Three**

1. According to Marji, how was a king chosen? What was her rationale? What is her

father’s reaction? Why?

2. Comment on the image at the bottom of page 22. What change does it reflect?

3. What do we learn about Marjane’s grandfather? How might this influence her parent’s views of the Shah?

**“Persepolis” Chapter Four**

1. What are the strengths and limitations of using the graphic cartoon to tell the story?

2. How is the image of the Shah on the bottom of page 27 both symbolic and ironic?

3. Ironically, what happens when a second dead man is carried out on a stretcher during

a demonstration? What happens next that surprises Marji and amuses her family?

What do the widow’s actions show about the Persian people?

**“The Letter” Chapter Five**

1. Is Marji’s father justified in telling Hoissein the truth about Mehri? What does this reveal about her father’s beliefs?

2. What happened on Black Friday? Why? What painful lesson did Marji learn?

**“The Party” Chapter Six**

1. What story did Marji’s neighbor make up about the spot on her cheek? What did this

reflect about Iranian people?

2. On page 43, Ebi says “As long as there is oil in the Middle East we will never have peace.” Do you agree? How does history or current events reinforce this?

3. What does the bottom left picture on page 43 seem to suggest?

4. Why does Ramin believe his father is not a murderer? How does his comment reflect

the attitude of other children?

**“The Heroes” Chapter Seven**

1. What lessons does Marji learn about “truth”?

2. Comment on the images on page 51. What is Marji’s response to what she hears?

3. What is Marji’s definition of a hero?

4. How does Marji react to learning about torture?

**“Moscow” Chapter Eight**

1. What is Uncle Anoosh’s story?

2. What is Uncle Fereydoon’s story?

**“The Sheep” Chapter Nine**

1. What is the significance of the title? How does it help to characterize the people of Iran?

2. How does Sartrapi carry the symbolism through this chapter?

3. What mood and theme is conveyed through the art on pages 70 and 71?

**“The Trip” Chapter Ten**

1. How did the new Islamic republic impact the educational system?

2. How have things changed for women during the Islamic Revoluation?

3. How did the Fundamentalist woman and man differ from the modern woman and man?

What were considered to be clear symbols of the West?

4. Discuss the scene on page 77.

**“The F-14’s” Chapter Eleven**

1. How does Marji reflect the common stereotypical thinking of other Iranians? How does Marji’s dad cut through her propaganda-induced thinking?

2. What is the nature of the war as reflected in the last frame on page 81?

**“The Jewels” Chapter Twelve**

1. What is one of the ramifications of the nation’s political conflict?

2. What upsets Mali at the grocery store? Can you think of a reason why she is especially offended by the incident?

**“The Key” Chapter Thirteen**

1. What was the primary difference between the Iranian and Iraqi armies?

2. What might be the purpose of publishing Iran’s “martyrs”?

3. What problems do the parents see in the educational system?

4. Why is Nasrine’s son given a gold key, but not Marji’s cousin?

5. Comment on the symbolism of the pictures on page 102.

6. What did the clothing of the 80’s suggest about how teenagers felt in that time period?

**“The Wine” Chapter Fourteen**

1. Where did people seek refuge? How did this environment also reflect the emotional state of the people/country?

2. How did the interior of their homes reflect the external changes that were occurring?

What two things did they need to protect themselves against?

3. Even though Mrs. Nassrine’s comments on page 106 bring humor, how are her actions also symbolic?

**“The Cigarette” Chapter Fifteen**

1. How would you describe the relationship between Marji and her mother? What language does Marji use to describe her mother and her tactics?

2. What was Marji’s symbolic act of rebellion? Describe her interesting response.

3. In what ways has Marji become an adult?

**“The Passport” Chapter Sixteen**

1. What had become a bigger conflict than the war against Iraq? How does this manifest itself?

2. Give an example of irony on page 118.

3. How did the government delegate positions of power? Describe the encounter between Marji’s aunt and the Minister of Health.

**“Kim Wilde” Chapter Seventeen**

1. How does Marji’s reaction to the Kim Wilde poster reinforce an existing conflict? How does Marji’s attitude change?

2. How did Marji’s mother compare to other Iranian mothers? How does Marji’s relationship with her mother seem to reflect typical parent-child issues?

3. Analyze Marji’s behavior when she returns home. Is it typical of a teenager?

**“The Shabbat” Chapter Eighteen**

1. What did the sirens signify? What did Marji realize for the first time? What does this show?

2. How does the picture on the top of page 137 reflect the mood? Where does Marji’s only hope lie?

3. How does Marji’s mother attempt to protect her daughter? How does Marji discover the truth? What does the last frame on page 142 reflect?

**“The Dowry” Chapter Ninteen**

1. How did Marji’s life change after Neda’s death? What happened at school?

2. What did Satrapi learn about the government in her new school? How did she respond?

3. What prediction do you make for Marji and her family after she leaves?